

HOUSE RESOLUTION 236

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Rosemary Wade Owens upon her receipt of the John Pleas Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to recognize those venerable public servants who have dedicated themselves to enhancing the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosemary Wade Owens is one such estimable person, and she is the recipient of the 2006 John Pleas Award, presented by the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) African-American History Month Committee; and

WHEREAS, first presented to Dr. John Pleas in 1996, this prestigious honor is bestowed upon a minority MTSU faculty member who has set a standard of excellence and contributed in significant ways to the University and community; in 1997, the African-American History Month Committee voted to rename the Faculty Award in Dr. Pleas's honor, and it is the only faculty award given at MTSU in the name of an African-American individual; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Wade Owens graduated from Walter Hill High School in 1969; she received her bachelor's degree from MTSU in 1972, and went on to complete her master's degree in education in 1974, education specialist degree in 1979, and certification as a public school counselor in 1996, all from MTSU; Dr. Owens earned her doctorate in education in 1983, from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens began her career in education serving for eleven years as an elementary school teacher in the Murfreesboro City Schools; she was first employed as an assistant professor in 1984, by Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, and served as adjunct assistant professor at Tennessee State University before finding her professional home at MTSU; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens initially took a position with MTSU as Director of Continuing Education and Public Service in 1984, and since 1985, Dr. Owens has served with acumen and alacrity as Dean of Continuing Studies and Public Service at MTSU, where she has earned the respect of her colleagues, the staff, and the students alike for the exemplary quality of her work; under her superb guidance and leadership the department has flourished, particularly in the area concerning the development of new programs, which address the needs of the community, such as the Multicultural Education Enrichment and Training Institute, a summer youth program, a Pre-College Math, Science, and Economics Program, the Minority Youth Leadership Development Institute, and a One Stop Career Center; and

WHEREAS, possessing great dedication to her chosen profession, Dr. Rosemary Owens is qualified to teach courses in Administration and Supervision, Curriculum and Instruction, Foundations of Education, and School Personnel Services Education; she is a critical voice of leadership in many local, state, and national education associations, as well as numerous MTSU and Tennessee Board of Regents committees; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Dr. Owens has many times been recognized for her outstanding service to the academic community, including her receipt in 2004, of the Barbara Beeler Award from the Tennessee Alliance for Continuing Higher Education; the Murfreesboro Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity 2002 Community Service Award; the 2002 Jerry Anderson Humanitarian Award; the Tennessee Board of Regents Trailblazer Award for Regents Online Degree Programs in 2001; the 2000 MTSU Ebony Achievement Award; and the 2000 MTSU Black Alumni of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout member of Bethel Baptist Church, Rosemary Owens faithfully serves her congregation and community as Director of Christian Education, Director of the "Just Say No" Club, and Secretary of the Finance Committee; she also introduced a system for the development of department goals, objectives, and activities, coordinated the review of Church by-laws, and developed a Pastoral Care Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens' remarkable success as a public servant and academic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosemary Owens is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, for her many contributions to her profession and her community and for demonstrating more than twenty years of singular commitment to the African-American student population at MTSU, Dr. Rosemary Wade Owens is wholly deserving of the John Pleas Award, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby congratulate Dr. Rosemary Wade Owens upon her receipt of the 2006 John Pleas Award, presented by the Middle Tennessee State University African-American History Month Committee, commend her for her laudable and astute service to the MTSU community and the good people of Tennessee, honor her myriad accomplishments, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.